

Message Text

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51
ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 PM-03 ERDA-05 ACDA-05 CIAE-00

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 NRC-05 OES-03

FEAE-00 SAM-01 SAJ-01 DODE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

SP-02 /076 W
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R 090756Z JUL 75
FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5987
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY MANILA
USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

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EO 11652 NA
TAGS MNUC PARM TW
SUBJCT: MORE DENIALS THAT ROC IS DEVELOPING NUCLEAR WEAPONS

REF TAIPEI 4041

1. CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY JULY 8 CARRIED HSU HSIEN-HSIU'S
DENIAL THAT ROC IS DEVELOPING NUCLEAR WEAPONS (REFTEL)
AND ALSO A SIMILAR STATEMENT BY MAJOR GENERAL LI CHANG-HAO
(2621/7022/3185), MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE SPOKESMAN.
LI REPORTEDLY SAID, "WE DON'T HAVE ANY PLANS TO DEVELOP
NUCLEAR WEAPONS. ALL NUCLEAR RESEARCH PROJECTS IN THIS
COUNTRY ARE BEING CARRIED OUT FOR ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH
PURPOSES."

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2. A REPORT SIMILAR TO CNA STORY WAS CARRIED BY ALL
CHINESE LANGUAGE PRESS JULY 8.
3. JULY 8 ENGLISH LANGUAGE CHINA POST COVERED NUCLEAR
FRONT WITH HSU AND LI'S COMMENTS AND ADDED A STATEMENT
FROM WANG SHEN-AN, SPOKESMAN FOR THE ATOMIC ENERGY
COMMISSION OF THE EXECUTIVE YUAN.

4. ON JULY 9 CHINESE LANGUAGE PAPERS CARRIED A SECOND DENIAL BY HSU HSIEN-HSIU WHO NOTED THIS TIME THAT THE ROC'S NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM WAS ALWAYS OPEN AND SUBJECT TO CONSTANT INSPECTION BY THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY. HE SAID THAT IAEA SENDS INSPECTORS TO TAIWAN TWICE A YEAR AND IT WAS SATISFIED THAT THE ROC IS NOT DEVELOPING NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

5. ENGLISH LANGUAGE CHINA NEWS CHIMED IN JULY 9 WITH AN EDITORIAL DENYING THAT THE GROC IS DEVELOPING NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND SUGGESTED THAT "US INTELLIGENCE SOURCES" COULD HAVE BEEN TIME INC.'S FERTILE IMAGINATION. ALTHOUGH THE EDITORIAL SAYS THE ROC WOULD BE AN "UTTER FOOL" TO BREAK ITS WORD WITH THE US AND BUILD A BOMB, IT GOES ON TO SUGGEST THAT THE ROC SHOULD DEVELOP THE CAPABILITY TO BUILD NUCLEAR WEAPONS. NOTING THAT TAIWAN DEPENDS ON THE AMERICAN NUCLEAR UMBRELLA IT SAYS, "IF THAT UMBREALLA IS WITHDRAWN, WE BECOME FREE AGENTS," AND ASKS "DON'T WE THEN HAVE THE RIGHT TO DEVELOP NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND USE THAT IF THAT IS ESSENTIAL TO SURVIVAL?"

6. COMMENT: THE CHINA NEWS HAS BEEN THE ONLY MEDIA SOURCE TO SUGGEST THE ROC MIGHT DEVELOP NUCLEAR WEAPONS.
UNGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 26 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY PLANS, NUCLEAR WEAPONS, PRESS COMMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 JUL 1975
Decapton Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975TAIPEI04120
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750236-1250
From: TAIPEI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t197507103/baaaadut.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 APR 2003 by lzenbel0>; APPROVED <02 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 971008
Subject: n/a
TAGS: MNUC, PARM, TW
To: STATE INFO HONG KONG
PEKING
TOKYO
SEOUL
MANILA
IAEA VIENNA

Type: TE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006